

- Development of extension mechanisms to transfer proven research results and tested technologies to the users; and
- Upgradation of research capability at the national level and integration of forestry research at international level, keeping in view that progress towards the goal may be achieved by integrated efforts of many well-knit and multi-disciplinary teams of skilled scientists and technicians.

Allocation of Funds to States

5859. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various states are demanding increase in the share of States in the revenue as suggested by the Tenth Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to convene the Chief Ministers' Conference to discuss this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question refers to an alternative scheme of sharing of resources between the Centre and the States which was recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission for introduction with effect from 1st April, 1996 under which a fixed share (29%) of the gross proceeds of almost all Central taxes is to be transferred to the States.

As promised by F.M. in the Budget Speech on July 22, 1996, the Ministry of Finance had brought out a discussion paper listing out various arguments for and against the alternative scheme and tabled this paper in Parliament on December 20, 1996. It was brought out in this paper that based on Budget Estimates 1996-97, implementation of the scheme w.e.f April 1, 1996 would result in additional transfer of resources from the Centre to the States of Rs. 2091 crore.

Finance Minister announced in his Budget Speech on February 22, 1997, the Government's intention to accept the recommendations of the TFC to form a single divisible pool of taxes to be shared between the Centre and the States.

(c) and (d) The alternative scheme of devolution was discussed by the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council on 15th January, 1997 and it is again scheduled for discussion on 10th May, 1997.

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs

5860. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
PROF. RITA VERMA :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the essential life saving drugs are not available in the market which is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make available such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (e) Government is operating a system whereby localised shortage of medicines is reported by the State Drug Controllers to the concerned manufacturer under intimation to this Department i.e. shortage are monitored at State level. The Department, however, on the basis of reports received in regard to shortages, takes up the matter with the concerned manufacturers for ensuring speedy availability of the medicines in the areas concerned

A general analysis of the reports received indicate that no general shortage of essential/life saving drugs has come to notice. However, localised shortage of some particular branded formulations has been reported. Even in such instances of temporary shortages, it has been noticed that therapeutic equivalents of medicines are normally available.

Crop Insurance Scheme

5861. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
DR. ARVIND SHARMA :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where Crop Insurance Scheme is being implemented at present;

(b) the economic and physical targets set under the scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the achievement made so far in this regard State-wise;

(c) the number of persons benefited under the scheme during the said period, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) whether some States have still not implemented the scheme even after certain modifications;

(e) if so, the names of those states and the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to make it obligatory for all the States to implement the scheme during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and if so, the time by which the scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is presently implemented in 15 States and 2 Union Territories. The names of States/U.Ts. are given below :-

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Gujarat
5. Goa
6. Himachal Pradesh
7. Karnataka
8. Kerala
9. Maharashtra
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Meghalaya
12. Orissa
13. Tamil Nadu
14. Tripura
15. West Bengal
16. A & N Island
17. Pondicherry

State-wise targets under the CCIS are not fixed because indemnity claims are become payable only if there is a natural calamity and yield loss in the defined area. The funds released by the Govt. of India during the VIIIth Five Yea Plan are given below :

	(Rs. in crores)
1992-93	30.00
1993-94	61.00
1994-95	106.00
1995-96	36.30
1996-97	110.42

(c) A Statement indicating State-wise details of number of persons benefitted under CCIS during the VIIIth Plan period is attached.

(d) & (e) Some States have not joined the scheme in view of relative stability in the agriculture yield and also because they find it unattractive on account of limited coverage of risk, crops etc. Names of States/U.Ts. which have not joined/opted out of the scheme are as under:

1. Punjab
2. Haryana
3. Sikkim
4. Mizoram
5. Arunachal Pradesh
6. Nagaland
7. Rajasthan
8. Delhi
9. Jammu & Kashmir

(f) and (g) There is no proposal to make the CCIS compulsory for the States because they may not like to accept it.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise details of Number of persons benefitted under comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) during the VIIIth Plan

Sl.No.	State/U.Ts	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	182871	81041	211121	163964	
2.	Assam	1636	114	389	71	
3.	Bihar	96995	15075	3909	34409	
4.	Gujarat	18361	493763	68892	384318	
5.	Goa	115	78	1291	82	
6.	Himachal Pradesh	782	391	388	8	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Karnataka	24915	19407	13880	48981	
8.	Kerala	4685	13500	15071	5841	
9.	Maharashtra	24897	21542	251878	130250	
10.	Madhya Pradesh	86858	20650	103642	247586	
11.	Meghalaya	776	155	311	194	
12.	Orissa	87199	20398	81878	109243	
13.	Tamil Nadu	38494	80795	14394	46775	
14.	Tripura	NIL	NIL	306	NIL	
15.	West Bengal	37598	41037	59160	112887	
16.	A & N Islands	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
17.	Pondicherry	299	1495	NIL	NIL	
Total		606481	809441	826211	1284609	

* Data for 1996-97 not available.

[Translation]

Superior Varieties of Seeds

5862. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Scientists are able to develop only those superior varieties of seeds which have already been developed by the advanced countries;

(b) whether Indian Scientists have failed to make any breakthrough in developing those seeds which have not been produced by the foreign countries like grams; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian scientists have made several breakthroughs in developing a large number of improved high yielding varieties and hybrids of different crops along with appropriate production and protection technologies for different agro-climatic conditions and situations in the country. In gram, a number of improved varieties like Pusa 256, JG 74, PBG-1, Phule G-5, Pusa 372, GNG 663, KWR 108, etc. have been developed and released with yield potential of more than 2.0 to 2.5 t/ha.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Drugs Price Control Order

5863. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Organisation of Chemicals and Druggists has submitted a memorandum a few years ago to amend the Drugs Price Control Order for printing the maximum retail price inclusive all taxes on medicines in place of 'retail price plus local taxes extra';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) In January, 1997 AIOCD represented that DPCO '95 be amended so as to allow printing of "The Maximum Retail Price inclusive of all taxes" in place of "retail price plus local taxes extra".

(b) The reason advanced was that medicines would be available at same price throughout the country.

(c) Since tax structure varies from State to State it has not been possible to accede to the request of AIOCD at present.